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Wilderness Study Area 328

COXCOMB MOUNTAIN

WILDERNESS STUDY REPORT

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MAPS

General Location...

Wilderness Characteristics...................................

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Land Status...

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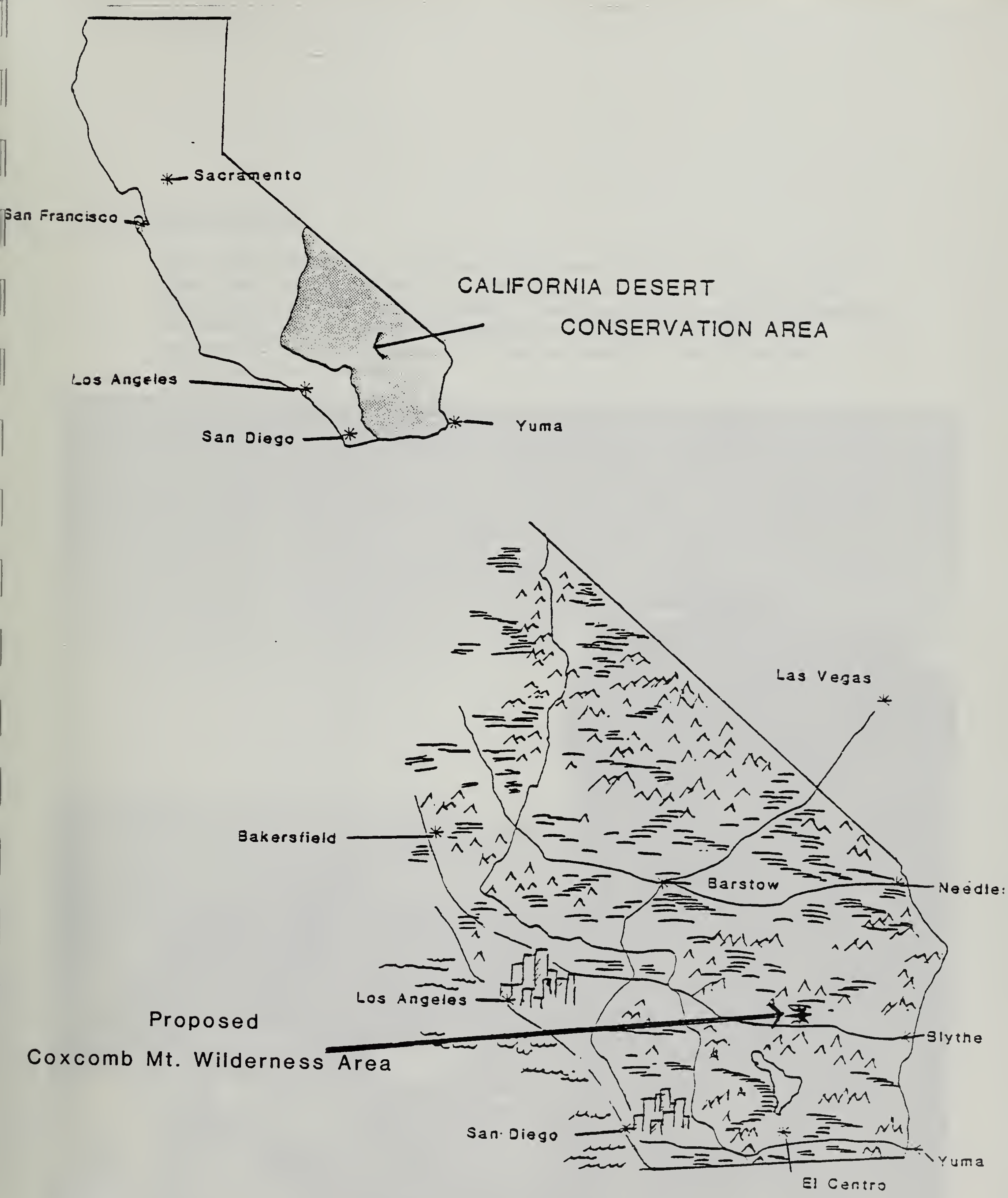


GENERAL LOCATION

Figure 1

I. Decision Sheet

The Coxcomb Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) No. 328, includes a gross total of approximately 71,942 acres of land. Of this total, approxmately 51,520 acres of public land are preliminarily recommended as suitable for wilderness designation and inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). See wilderness characteristics, map #1.

II. Recommendation and Rationale

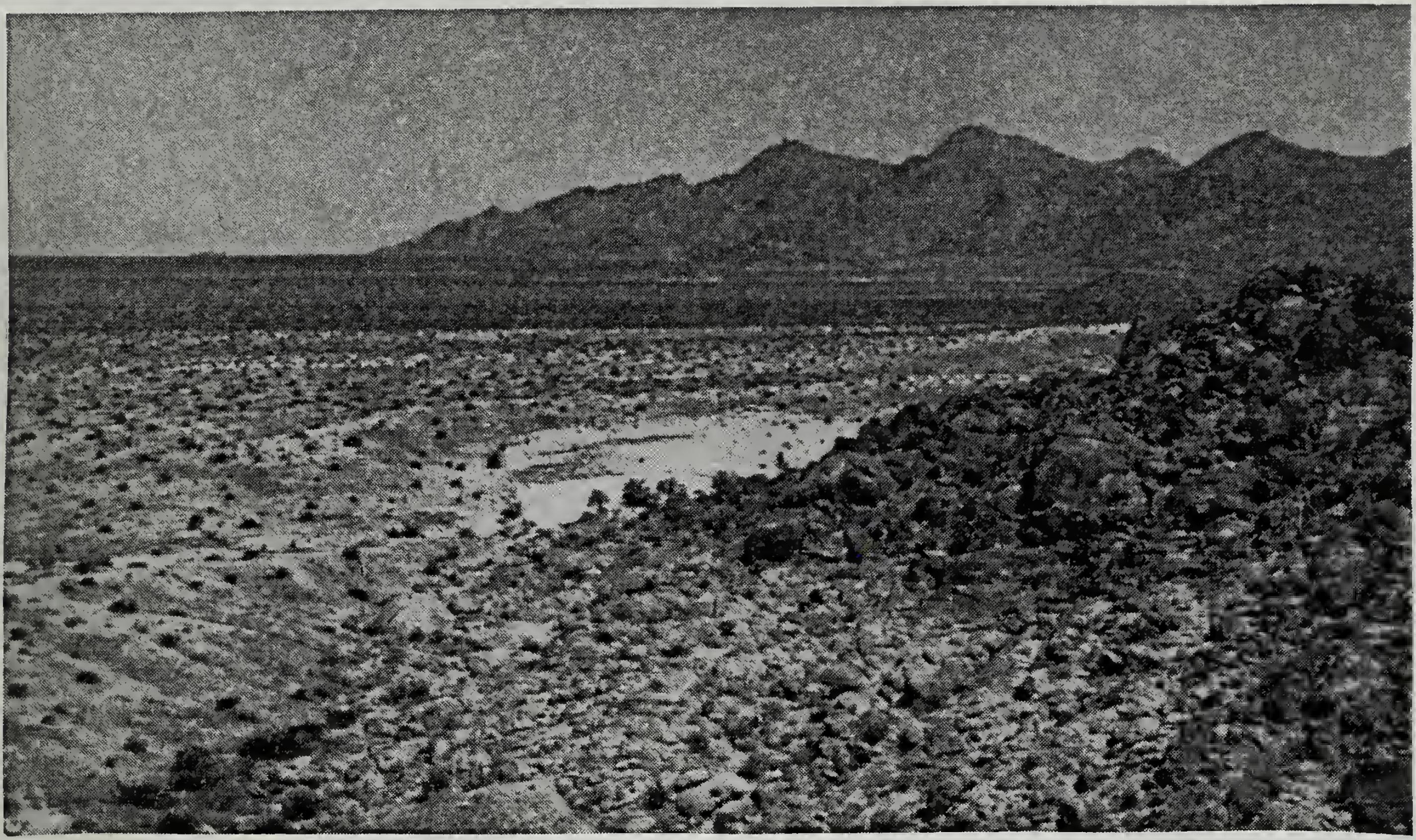
The Bureau of Land Management recommends that those public lands located within that portion of the Coxcomb Mountain WSA which were identified as suitable in the California Desert Plan (CDP), as amended, be included into the NWPS. These lands meet the criteria specified in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964, and designation as wilderness would be in the public interest.

This portion of the Coxcomb Mountains is being recommended for designation because of the exceptional opportunities for primitive experiences which it can provide. In addition to being adjacent to the Joshua Tree National Monument (JTNM), its closeness to the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, outstanding wilderness quality and ease of access contribute to make this one of the most unique study areas within the California Desert. Most of the sites northern border is formed by State Highway 62 and its eastern border is only a short distance from and parallel to State Highway 171. Maintained dirt roads and routes provide easy access to most of he northern and eastern perimeter. Plant and animal diversity within the area is enhanced by the fact that the study area supports a transition zone between the Colorado and Mojave Deserts. Most of the study area falls within the drier and hotter Colorado Desert while the remainder (approximately 20%) lies in the cooler Mojave Desert. The blown sand and white dunes in this area provide a visual reminder of this transition zone. Wildlife is varied and ranges from a small heard of evasive bighorn sheep to the everpresent jackrabbit and roadrunner-coyote, bobcat and rattlesnakes are abundant throughout the area. Birds, attracted by the water in the nearby Colorado aqueduct abound and redtailed hawks, prairie falcon and raven share the sky with a mulitude of smaller species.

Vegetation, representing both the Mojave and Colorado Deserts, is typical of that found throughout the region. Creosote, yucca, cholla and ocotillo range along the bajadas while smoke trees, ironwood, desert willow and palo verde follow the washes. On the shear rocky cliffs barrel cactus, up to three feet tall, compete with the always present creosote.

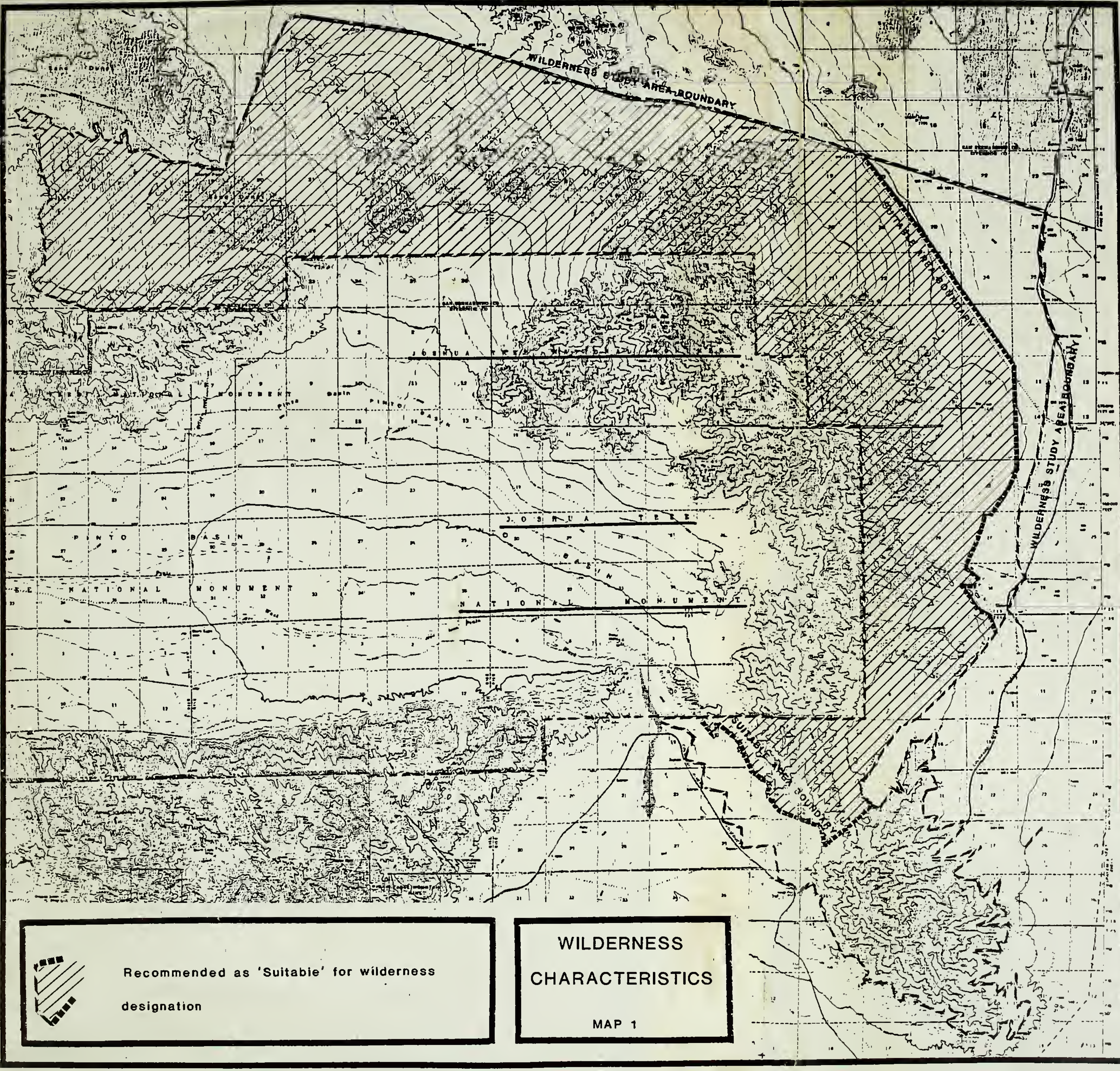
Layered landforms combine to create what appears from a distance to be a dark impenetrable surface. A closer look provides glimpses of gentle washers, interior valleys and a maze of canyons which unlock the solid mass and provide access to the interior.

The Coxcomb Mountain WSA can provide both the seasoned enthusiast and the novice with primitive experiences and challenges that cannot be surpassed anywhere in the California Desert.



III. Statistical Summary Table

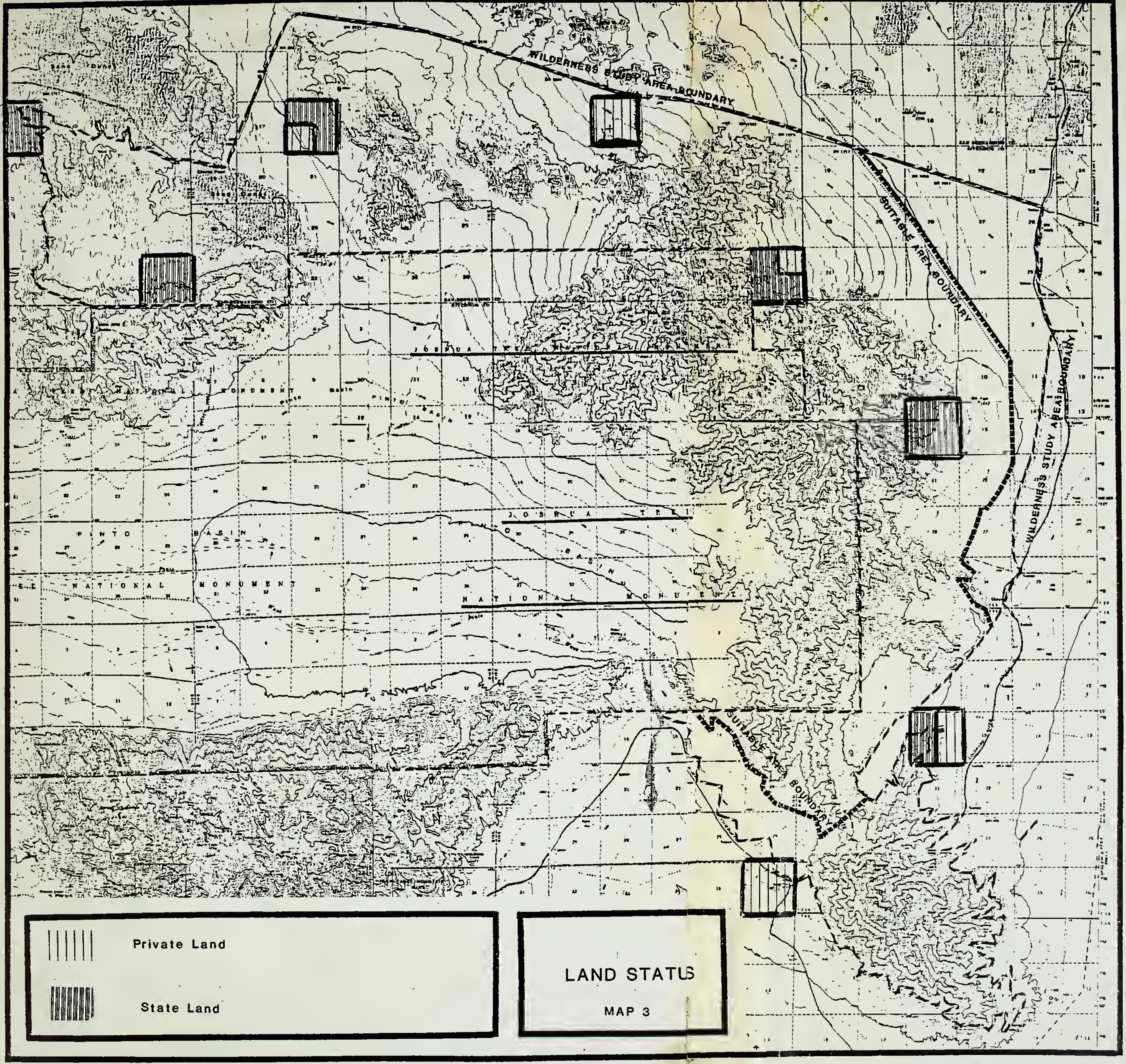
		Approxmate Total Acres	Approximate Public Acres
Included within the WSA boundary		72,256	68,604
BLM Acres Recommdended as Suitable			51,520
Included with the suitable boundary			
-State of California	2,368		
-Private Lands	960		
	3,328		
-Gross Area, Total	54,848		
BLM Acres Recommended as Non-suitable			17,084
Included with the Non-suitable boundary			
-State of California	224		
-Private Lands	100		
	324		
-Gross Area, Total	17,408		



▨ Recommended as 'Suitable' for wilderness designation

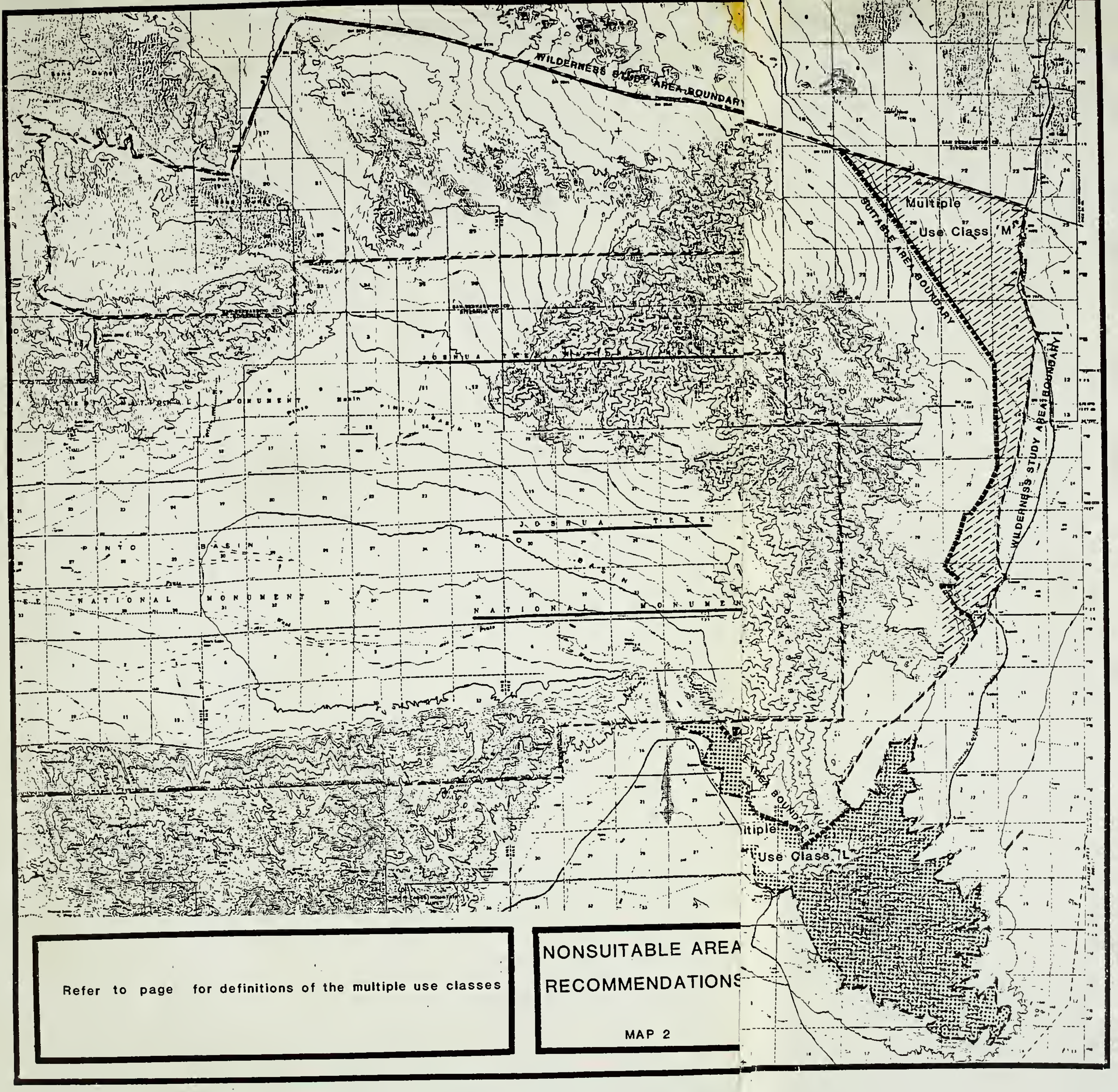
WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

MAP 1



LAND STATUS

MAP 3



Refer to page for definitions of the multiple use classes

NONSUITABLE AREA
RECOMMENDATIONS

MAP 2

IV. Summary of Public Comment

The Coxcomb Mountain has historically supported a variety of recreational activity and numerous small mining operations. Rockhounding, off road vehicle play picnicking and backpacking have always been popular activities in the area and these interests were reflected in the comments which were received.

During the inventory phase 28 letters were received containing comments specifically directed to the Coxcomb Mountain Study Area. The majority of the correspondence, 19 (approximately 68%) favored wilderness status for the area. Five letters (approximately 18%) were opposed to designation and the 4 (approximately 14%) remaining provided general comments.

The State of California Air Resources Board favored the inclusion of roadless areas adjacent to existing federally protected areas for the protection of the natural air basins within the State.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power felt that the transmission lines, roads and canal generated a zone of influence 2-1/2 miles on each side. Within this area, they stated that the naturalness, solitude and primitive/unconfined types of recreation did not exist. Two letters from California Association of four wheel Drive Club members stated that the area offered excellent opportunities for family oriented off road vehicle use and general recreation and recommended that the area not be closed to vehicle use.

Two letters from the Desert Protective Council and one from the Bueno Vista Audubon Society supported designation of the area for wilderness.

The American Motorcycle Association provided road information and stated that views from the eastern slopes of the mountains over the canal, roads and highway would preclude any opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

Most of the remaining comments favoring wilderness status noted the sites location adjacent to Joshua Tree National Monument and recommended adding the southern end of the mountain to the study area. Generally, those opposed wanted the area left open to vehicle use for play and rockhounding. During the study phase of wilderness evaluation, two additional comments were received. One favored maintaining the current status since the area offers many day hiking trails which would be unaccessible if it became necessary to park along the highway. The other letter identified two roads in the area.

V. Description of the Wilderness Study Area

The Coxcomb Mountain WSA is located approximately 170 miles east of the Los Angeles metropolitan area, 10 miles north of I-10. California State Highway 62 forms a large portion of the northern border. Twentynine Palms is the closest community to the study area and it lies approximately 20 miles to the west. Visitors to the area have a choice of approaching it either through the Colorado (I-10) or Mojave (State 62) deserts. Between the two deserts a transition zone, which serves as an ecological melting pot, supports vegetation and wildlife representative of each area. These two distinct environments are separated at the 3000 feet level which divides the northern portion of the study area in the vicinity of the Pinto Mountains.

The Study area includes the Coxcomb Mountains and the eastern portion of the Pinto Mountains. These ranges are seperated in the north by the expanse of the Pinto Basin. The WSA shares a common border (northern and eastern) with Joshua Tree National Monument. The entire boundary coincides with an area which was designated as wilderness in 1976 by Congress. Joshua Tree National Monument was established in the 1930's to protect what is considered to be some of the most unique terrain in the southwestern United States. When the orginal boundary seperating the monument from what is now the Coxcomb Mountains Wilderness Study Area was arbitrarily established it was not intended to mark the extent of the rare combination of landforms, vegetation and wildlife found in the monument. The Coxcomb Mountains is a natural extension of all these unique features.

Included within the borders of the study area is terrain that is as diverse and complex as any found within the California Desert. Although varying only slightly more than 2000 feet in elevation between the highest and lowest points, the irregular shape, coarseness and dark color rising rapidly from a smooth desert floor support the impression of a much greater variation. The crest of Coxcomb Mountain is composed of a series of irregularly spaced sharp peaks which provide a dramatic silhouette against the lighter sky. The rock covered slopes along the face of the range are scarred by deeply eroded canyons and shallow washes which drop and cut the bajada into intricate patterns. Random rock outcrops, reflecting miniaturized versions of the surrounding mountains rise abruptly from the bajada like islands rising from a sea of sand.

The remaining element in this desert environment, the weather is as harsh during the summer as it is pleasant during the winter. Annual rainfall in the area, measured at Twentynine Palms.(approximately 30 miles east of the WSA) averages only 4.04 inches and average midsummer temperatures vary between 100°-110° during the day and 65°-80° in the evening. Thunderstorms, which normally occur in July and August, frequently result in flash flooding in the washes. Winter temperatures are considerably lower, ranging from 10°-30° at night to 45°-50° during the day.

VI. Summary Analysis of the WSA Recommendations

A. Evaluation of Wilderness Values

Criteria	Values and Uses
Size	The area being recommended as suitable for wilderness designation totals 54,848 acres. Of this total 2368 acres (approximately 3.7 sections) belongs to the State of California and 960 acres (approximately 1.5 sections) are privately owned. The study area is irregular in shape and wraps itself around the northeast corner of Joshua Tree National Monument.
Natural Condition	Like most of the surrounding area, past use within the Coxcomb WSA has been predominently associated with mineral activities. A portion in the north is part of what was the Old Dale Mining District. There are currently no active mineral operations within the boundaries although the number of new claims along the eastern edge has recently increased. The mountainous areas are extermely rugged and this has most recreational use to the areas along the bajadas and in or near the washes. The washes and ways show evidence of recent vehicle use but it appears that this use is primarily for access rather than play. Most day use and camping occurs near the base of the mountains and outcrops. The rugged terrain and the fact that the area adjoins JTNM has limited use and perserved the natural condition. In those few areas where past use has left indications of human activities, time will eventually eliminate these signs.
Opportunities for Solitude	Opportunities for solitude vary due to the diversity of the land forms and variation in vegetative patterns resulting from the differences found in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts. The relatively flat bajada's and shallow washes along the eastern edge support primarily low growing shrubs which provide little physical shielding. In spite of this, outstanding opportunities still exist because of the vastness of the area. In the larger sandy washes in the north vegetation is taller and generally more dense. Tall creosote and smoke trees in addition to other types of vegetation help provide a feeling of seclusion and isolation. Within the jumbled rocky mountains and outcrops the opprotunities abound. The texture of the surface is such that even at relatively close range the sense of solitude and seclusion would prevail. Overall, the area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude.

VI. Summary Analysis of the WSA Recommendations (continue)

A. Evaluation of Wilderness Values

Criteria	Values and Uses
Opportunities for Primitive and Unconfined types of Recreation	The ruggedness of the mountain lends itself to primitive recreation by virtually barring the use of vehicles. The area is pristine and evidence of past use is limited. Views into the National Monument and available from most of its' peaks and the vastness and isolation is overwelming. There is no sense of confinement and the entire area supports outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation.
Ecosystems Present/Ecological Uniqueness and Diversity	The study area falls within the broad classification of the American Desert Province and is roughly evenly divided between the Creosote Bush (Larrea) and Creosote Bush-bur sage (Larrea - Franseria) land form types. Vegetation is typical of the surrounding area and representitive of that found in the Mojave and Colorado Desert environments. Transition areas, where the deserts overlap display a mixture of vegetative types. Creosote is both visually and numerically dominant throughout the area except in and near the washes where smoke trees, desert willow and palo verde are more noticeable. From a distance the mountain sides appear barren but they actually support a large variety of shrubs and cactus. Wildlife in the Coxcomb and Pinto mountains reflects that found in and around Joshua Tree National Monument. Desert bighorn sheep and burro dear inhabit the area and approximatly four square miles of desert tortoise habitat are located within the boundaries. The southwestern portion of the WSA supports at least one prairie falcon eyrie. To "drinkers" have been developed in the area to supplement other sources during the arid summer months.
Landforms Present/Geological Uniqueness and Diversity	The variety and form of the geological features is unique and spans the range from flat sandy area to jumbles of piled rocks. The WSA contains the following percentages of land form types: 40% alluvial fans, 20% mountains, 15% hills, 10% sand dunes, 5% dissected fans, 5% sand covered dissected fans, 3% sand covered fans and 2% pediments. The exposed surfaces dramatically depict the record of past geologic activity.

VI. Summary Analysis of the WSA Recommendations (continue)

A. Evaluation of Wilderness Values

Criteria	Values and Uses
Scenic Values	The study area is included within four scenic quality divisions two of which encompass most of the site. Both of these areas were rated as outstanding. The primary feature in the south consists of a series of steep, sharp and craggy granitic peak along the crest which gives the mountain an overall rugged appearance. In the north, the foothills, remnants of the highly eroded mountains, are granitic boulder piles scattered on the alluvial plain. The surface is rough textured and display a variety of colors with dark brown, tan and red-bround accents.
Adjacent Existing/ Proposed Wilderness	The study area, "wraps" around Joshua Tree National Monument. Roughly half of the border (approximately 26 miles) joins designated wilderness within the monument.
Manageability	Over half of the boundary joins designated wilderness. Management of the common boundary will be done in conjunction with the National Park Service. Identical uses on each side will preclude conflicts. Most of the remaining boundary is easily identifiable on the ground. Paved roads, dirt roads, and utility support roads make up most of the remaining border. Contours were used for the boundary in only 3 areas. These areas are the only ones which will require frequent signing to identify the borders. Signing, the development and distribution of maps, the establishment of trail heads and other aspects of specific management will be detailed in the management plan following designaion. There are no significant issues which will preclude the effective and efficient management of this site.
Proximity to Urban Center (Driving time)	The following standard metropolitan statistical Areas are located within one days drive of the WSA: San Diego, Bakersfield, Los Angeles - Long Beach - Anaheim, Santa Ana - Garden Grove - Riverside - Ontario - San Bernardino, Phoenix and Las Vegas. The Los Angeles Metropolitan Area is approximately a three hour drive on J-10/State 62 while the San Diego Metropolitan Area is about four and one half hours away. The WSA is centerally located and will provide primitive

VI. Summary Analysis of the WSA Recommendations (continue)

A. Evaluation of Wilderness Values

Criteria	Values and Uses
	recreational opportunities for a large number of potential users from surrounding areas.
Previous Recreational Use	Historically, the area has supported primitive camping, off road vehicle use in the washes and along the ways, hiking and backpacking. Numerous ways in the Pinto Basin and fire rings indicate the past popularity of the area. The sandy washes challenge all types of ORV's.
Historical and Cultural Resources/Native American Concerns	One area of known cultural sensitivity has been identified within the WSA. The area will likely have dispersed mining features in the eastern portions and scattered aboriginal sights in the west. There are no known significant Native American Resources within the borders.
Uniqueness Relative to Other Established/Proposed Wilderness within the CDCA	Joshua Tree National Monument has been recognized as possessing some of the most unique terrain with the California desert. This WSA is a natural extension of these diverse landforms. Those portions of the Coxcomb and Pinto Mountains lying outside of the artificial boundary of the Monument are reflections of those portions falling within washes, canyons, alluvial fans, bajadas, pediments, desert varnish, desert pavement, isolated rock outcrops, sand dunes, blown sand all interact to form complex patterns with infinite variations. Although other desert areas possess some of the characteristics, few if any possess them in such abundance.
Physical Accessibility to All Segments of the Public	Access to the border of the study area is by paved road whether approaching the area from the north or south. Highway 62 parallels the northern border and Highway 171 approaches the eastern border. A short walk from either road will place a visitor inside of the recommended area. The site is easily accessible to anyone interested in experiencing a primitive environment regardless of their experience, age or physical condition.

B. Management Issues

There are no significant issues that would preclude the effective management of this study area as wilderness. The overall management goal for the Coxcomb Mountain Wilderness Area is to provide for the protection of the various resources and maintenance of the wilderness characteristics. Following designation a management plan, sensitive to the needs of the resources and responsive to the desires of the public will be developed. This plan will detail the actions necessary to manage the area in perpetuity to insure that it remains unimpaired for future generations.

A number of significant resources have been identified within the boundaries of the area being recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. In addition to muledeer the Coxcomb Mountain supports a small herd of bighorn sheep. It is believed that the herd is declining. Maintenance of existing water sources and, if necessary, the developement of new ones will be a primary management consideration. All decisions affecting wildlife and its' habitat will be coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Game.

The protection of both the known and yet to be discovered areas of cultural sensitivity will receive stress.

With few exceptions the boundaries of the recommended area are identifiable on the ground. The northern border is alongside Highway 62 and most of the eastern border parallels either dirt roads or maintained utility support roads. A portion of the northwestern end and the southern tip lie along contour lines and would require signing. Historically, use in the vicinity of these areas is light and there should be few conflicts. One area in the central portion of the study area has been mined in the past and contains a "grand fathered" mining operation. The area has been "cherry stemmed" and will require frequent signing. Detailed maps of these three areas will be needed to preclude conflicts.

Approximately 30 miles of mutual boundary divides the Coxcomb Mountain WSA from Joshua Tree National Monument. Although the boundary is not identifiable on the ground, complimentary uses on each side will eliminate the need for extensive signing and preclude the possibility of conflicts.

The Wilderness area is easily accessible from both paved and dirt roads. Trail heads, parking areas and contact points will be established for the convenience of recreationists.

The area being recommended for designation includes one entire section (Section 16, T. 1 S., R. 15 E., and two quarter section (SW 1/4, T. 1 S., R. 14 E., Section 16 and the NE 1/4 T. 1 S.,R.15 E.,. Section 36) of private lands. There are also 5 sections of land belonging to the state of California within the borders. The state parcels are: all of Section 36 and a portion of Section 16, T 1 S., R. 13 E., a portion of Section 16, T. 1 S., R. 14 E., a portion of Section 36 T. 1 S., R. 15 E., and all of Section 16, T. 2 S., R. 16 E. Two of these sections lie on the study area boundary. Acquisition of these properties would reduce the potential conflicts resulting from access needs and activities which are not compatible with a wilderness experience.

The borders also include three small areas designated as fee rights of way.

C. Impacts of Designation on Resources and Uses

Resource/Use	Wilderness	Remarks
Mineral Exploration and Development	There are 127 claims filed within the borders of the recommended areas. None of these claims are known to be economic significance USGS and BLM Mineral Surveys are not complete as of this date. Wilderness restric tions will impact these activities. The degree of impact will be better defined when USGS and BLM mineral Surveys are complete over half of the claims are located in 1 section in the northwestern tip, T. 1 S., R. 13 E.	Claims have been filed in the following sections: T. 1 S., R, 13 E., Sections 18,19,20, 25,26,27,28,29,30,31, 32,33,34,35,36,; T. 1 S., S., R. 14 E., Sections 10 and 15; T. 1 S., R. 15 E., Sections 1; T. 3 S.,R.15 E.,Section 6, 14 and 23; T. 2 S., R. 16 E., Sections 14,15,16,17,20, 21,23,24,32,33; T. 3 S., R. 16 E., Section 2, T.1 S., R. 13 E., Sections 25 26,27,34,35 and 36. New claims may be allowed until Congress withdraws the area from mineral entry.
Energy Exploration and Development	There are no known energy resources of economic significance within the recommended area.	Multiple-use class guidelines will permit further exploration and development in the portion of the study area notbeing recommended as suitable for designation.
Motorized Recreation	The interior of the area is extremely rugged and not conducive to vehicle use. Most vehicle use is on the flatter, sandy area that surrounds the mountains and users in the areas would be moderately impacted.	The mountainous terrain limits vehicle use. The area between the Coxcomb Mountain and Pinto Mountains supports camping and vehicular play in the washes and sand. The canal road provides easy access to the eastern edge and the washes in this area attract users.

General Recreation	Wilderness designation will positively impact all primitive types of recreation by preserving the environment and eliminating potential conflicts beween users. The primitive experience will be enhanced for hikers, backpackers, picnickers and equestrian use Opportunities for nature study and research will be expanded. Activities involving acquisition, such as rockhounding will be negatively impacted because of vehicle restrictions.	Joshua Tree National Monument and the Cox-Mountain Wilderness Study Area complement each other and compatible uses expand the opportunities and diversity of experiences for users on both sides of the common border.
Vegetation and Wildlife	This resource will experience a low positive impact from the elimination of vehicles to the area. This impact will be limited to the surrounding flat lands where most vehicle use occurs. The rugged terrain of the mountain restricts vehicular use excepting the washes. The reduction in human presence will positively impact both the bighorn sheep and burro deer. A low positive impact to vegetation growing near vehicle route and the many small washes. Wildlife habitat will generally improve in and around these areas. Procedures to insure access to water sources within the WSA and JTNM will be developed. Access by routes or modes of travel not available to the general public may be permitted. This will mitigate the potential severe impact to wildlife which could result from a complete closure.	The southeastern portion of the study area includes an active prairie falcon eyrie. Desert Bighorn sheep (Ovis canadensis nelsoni) are listed as a sensitive species by the BLM. No unsual plant assemblages occur within the study area. Vegetation consists mostly of creosote bush scrub. No significant plant species are know to occur within the WSA.
Historical and Cultural Resources. Native American Concerns.	As a result of designation the one known area of known cultural resource sensitivity will be positively impacted. Vehicular restrictions will reduce exposure of the site.	Cultural sites throughout the desert have suffered irreparable damage as a result of vandalism and ignorance. Wilderness

		restrictions will not only provide a degree of protection the known site as well as any others yet to be discovered but will also preserve any areas of Native American use.
Economic/ Soci Concerns	Designation will little if any impact on these concerns.	No significant adverse or beneficial economic impacts have been identified as resulting from the proposed wilderness designation. Although the adjoining area (Dale Mining District) has a history of mineralization, the existing boundaries exclude all areas of known significance. Restrictions to mining within the area would be significant, but the economic loss, if there is one, is unknown to commerical value has been identified for the native vegetation nor has the area been considered for grazing.

D. Impacts of Non-designation on Wilderness Values.

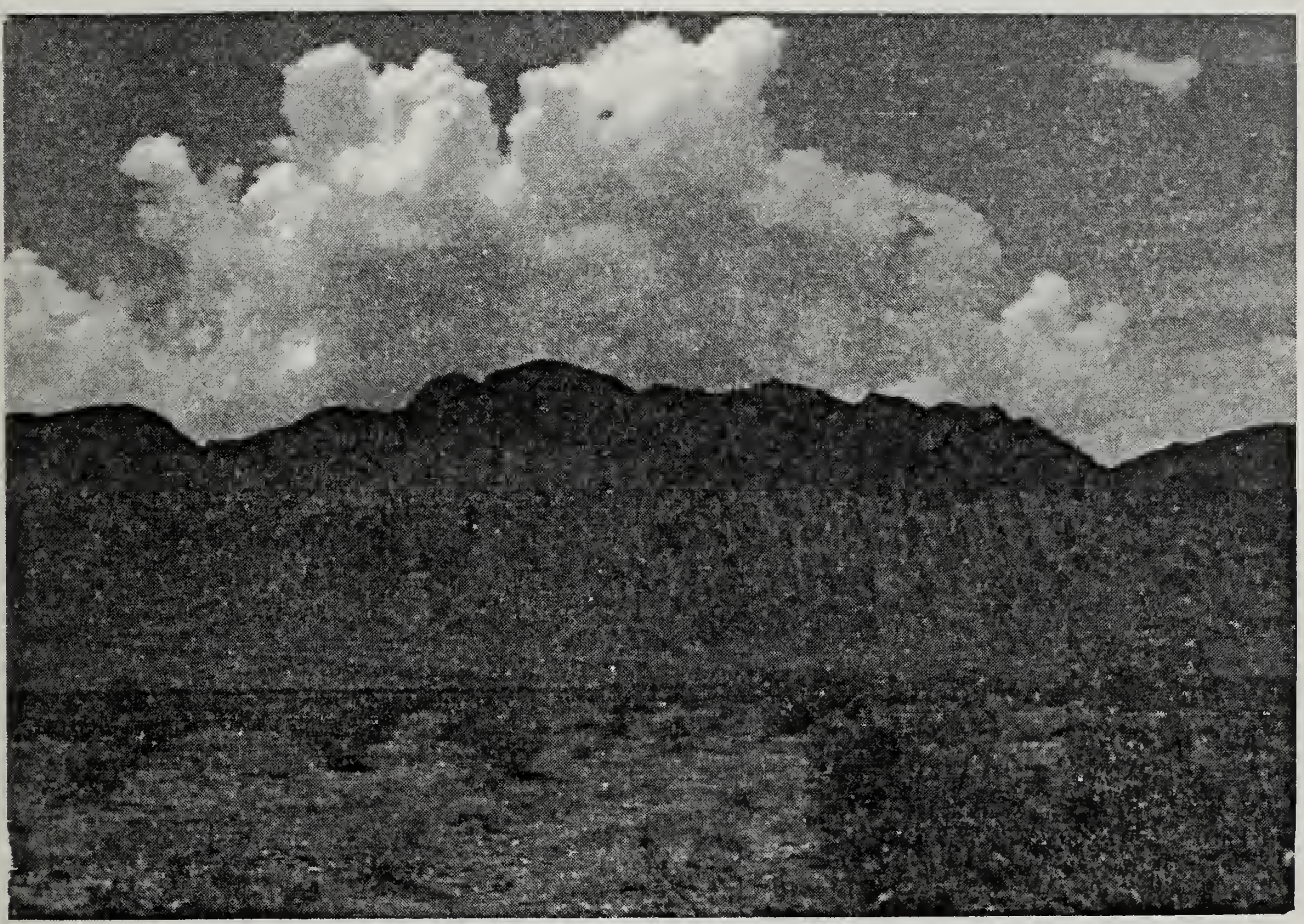
The following impacts are based on the assumption that the area being recommended as suitable for designation will revert to MUC "L" management if it is not designated as wilderness by Congress. Any less restrictive designation could result in the rapid loss of all widerness values.

Even under MUC "L" management many activities could be permitted which would significantly degrade or impair some wilderness values. To keep this from happening, if the area is not designated, sensitive resources will be identified and specific management prescriptions initiated.

WILDERNESS VALUES	IMPACTS
Size	Numerous claims throughout the area reflect an intense interest in mineral exploration and, possibly development. Thses activities could result in a network of roads and the ultimate reduction in the size of the roadless area. This would, in effect, reduce both the size of the wilderness area and the quality of the experience.
Natural Condition-Opportunities for Solitude -Opportunities for Primitive and Unconfined Types of Recreation.	Local prospecting and small scale mining operations would result in low to moderate impacts to these wilderness values. Construction of access routes to claims and mines will open the area to vehicle use. Areas which, because of the rugged terrain had restricted vehicle use, would be impacted.
Ecosystems Present/ Ecological Uniqueness and Diversity	Vegetation near developments would suffer local low negative impacts, but this would be limited by mitigation. Increased use would negatively impact the bighorn sheep and muledeer habitat. Separation from the few water sources would ultimately result in a displacement to Joshua Tree National Monument.
Landforms Present/ Geological Uniqueness and Diversity	Impacts would be local and of little significance. Uniqueness and diversity would be unaffected.
Scenic Values	Mineral exploration and development in the northwestern end of the recommended area could significantly degrade the scenic values. Claims are more heavily concentrated here and the impacts of exploration, development and road construction would be moderate. Mitigation would reduce the degree of impacts. Impacts would be significantly less in the less mineralized areas.

Adjacent Existing/ Proposed Wilderness	Non-designation would result in low negative impacts to the designated wilderness areas in Joshua Tree National Monument. Development followed by increased recreation use would eventually result in added pressure on the adjoining wilderness boundary. Loss of this potential extension to the wilderness would reduce the quality of the wilderness experience for future users.
Manageability	The ability to manage the area for the protection of wilderness values under a multiple use concept would be greatly complicated. Management of specific resources such as wildlife, scenic values and cultural resources would be negatively impacted.
Priximity to Urban Centers (Driving Time)	The study area is relatively close to a number of large urban areas. Driving time to an alternative site with similar attractions could be increased.
Previous Recreational Use.	The site supports vehicular oriented activities on the alluvial fans around the mountain and in the shallow washes. Non-designation would positively impact vehicle oriented recreation and acquisition types of recreation such as hunting and rockhounding. Primitive recreation would be negatively impacted.
Historical and Cultural Resources Native American Concerns	Impacts to known resources would be mitigated and the direct impacts reduced or eliminated. The ability to do further evaluations in a relatively pristine environment would be reduced. Randon use could impair undiscovered sites. Impacts are estimated to be low to moderate.
Uniqueness Relative to Other Resources	The unique combinations of landform, wildlife, scenic quality in conjunction with its location adjacent to existing designated wilderness in the National Monument combine to produce a truely unique wilderness area. There are few areas under study which can match the potential which this site offers. Non-designation would result in the eventual loss of the unique aspects of this area.

Physical Accessibility to All Segments of the Public	Accessibility would be improved by non-designation. The handicapped, elderly or inexperienced hikers or backpackers would have greater access. Although the borders of the study area are easily reached by many routes, the ability to penetrate the area would be enhanced.



E. Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

This table indicates the alternative land uses which were considered prior to adoption of the Final Plan recommendation. The following Multiple Use Class definitions are outlined in California Desert Plan.

1. Class C. indicates the area being "preliminarily recommended" as suitable for wilderness designation.

2. Class L (limited use) protects sensitive, natural, scenic, ecological resource values. These lands are managed to provide for generally lower-intensity, carefully controlled multiple use of resources while ensuring that sensitive values are not significantly diminished.

3. Class M (moderate use) is based upon a controlled balance between higher intensity use and protection of public lands. A wide variety of present and future uses are provided for. This class is designed to conserve desert resources and to mitigate damage to those resources which permitted uses may cause.

4. Class I (intensive use) is designed to provide for concentrated use of the lands and resources to meet human needs. Reasonable protection will be provided for sensitive natural and cultural values. Mitigation of impacts on resources and rehabilitation of impact areas will occur insofar as possible.

E Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

WILDERNESS QUALITY		FINAL PLAN	DRAFT PLAN				
EVALUATION CRITERIA		PROPOSED ACTION	NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Size	Class C	51,520 acres	None	68,604 acres	51,836 acres	none	51,520 acres
	Class L	8,240 acres	None	None	16,768 acres	51,420 acres	8,240 acres
	Class M	8,844 acres	68,604 acres	None	None	17,184 acres	8,844 acres
	Class I	None	None	None	None	None	None
Natural Condition		The natural condition of the land within the borders of the recommended area will be maintained. The "L" area at the southeast tip (south of the utility lines) will with few sight specific exceptions, remain natural. Rugged terrain will preclude	Recent interest in exploration indicates that under "M" management, the natural condition would rapidly be degraded. Because of the number and intensity of claims, mitigation	Wilderness designation of the entire WSA would insure that the natural condition of the area was maintained or even improved. Vehicle restrictions on the alluvial	This alternative would provide a greater degree of protection to the natural condition than the Final Plan. Management of the northwest portion	Many activities permitted and the class "L" guidelines would degrade the natural condition if not mitigated. Minning claims in portions of the WSA are so	See Final Plan -Proposed Action

E Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN PROPOSED ACTION	DRAFT PLAN				
		NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Natural Condition (cont.)	excessive use. The natural condition in the "M" area will eventually be degraded. Continued exploitation in the grandfathered mining claim area will affect the resource. Easy access to the. flat sandy area in the northwest will attract continued use.	would, at best, delay the loss. The northern Coxcomb Mt. area would be subjected to the greatest impacts. Some, extremely rugged and remote sites would be preserved but overall the natural condition would eventually be lost.	fans surrounding the mountain, in addition, to restoration would eventually result in recovery of the entire site.	as wilderness would preserve this area. With specific exceptions, the naturalness within the remaining area would be preserved. Activities within the remaining "L" area would be mitigated to insure that the naturalness was preserved.	concentrated that even with restrictions it would be difficult, if not impossible, to maintain the naturalness. The portion in the southern tip designated as "M" would eventually be degraded in areas. The rugged terrain would preclude an overall loss of the natural condition.	

E Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

WILDERNESS QUALITY	FINAL PLAN	DRAFT PLAN				
EVALUATION CRITERIA	PROPOSED ACTION	NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Opportunities for Solitude	Opportunities for solitude are enhanced by the rugged terrain and the adjoining National Monument. These opportunities will be entirely lost in the "M" area along the eastern edge and reduced in the "L" area to the south. In this area the topography will insure areas of complete solitude although some loss in the surrounding areas will	Many areas in the rugged mountain which are isolated by the terrain will continue to support opportunities for solitude. Outside of the isolated areas; activities permitted under the "M" designation would gradually reduce these opportunities. Depending on the degree and success of the mineral operations most opportunities could evenually	The Protection Alternative would insure the maintenance and, in some case, the improvement opportunities throughout the study area. Restrictions on vehicle use and development would preclude a loss of solitude.	For the most part opportunities for solitude would be maintained throughout the entire study area. Some opportunities would be lost locally due to site specific activities within the "L" area, but mitigation could reduce these impacts. The accumulative affects of many activities could combine to reduce these opportunities over large areas.	Development and vehicle use would degrade opportunities for solitude in the flat areas and washes around the southern tip. The rugged interior of this area would generally remain unchanged. Within the remaining "L" area opportunities would be degraded locally by site specific activities. Mitigation could reduce these impacts but the accumulative effects	See Final Plan -Proposed Action

E Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN PROPOSED ACTION	DRAFT PLAN				
		NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Opportunities for Solitude (cont)	occur.	be lost throughtout the entire area.			of numerous activities could combine to reduce opportunities over large areas.	
Opportunities for Primitive and Unconfined Types of recreation.	Within the area being recommended as suitable, all opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation would be enhanced. The combined wilderness area (the Coxcomb Mountains and Joshua Tree National Monument) will provide truly outstanding	Current mineral interest in the area indicates that under Class "M" management a great amount of exploration and possible development could occur. Development would not be uniform but, probably, be heavier in the north. Roads into the sites would result in	This alternative would provide the managemnet option necessary to maintain the outstanding opportunities throughout the entire study area. Activities which would conflict with primitive and/or unrestricted types of recreation would be	The Balanced Alternative provides a slightly greater degree of protection than the Final Plan, Proposed Action. The elimination of the "M" area allows for more restrictive management and a corresponding reduction in impacts. Concentrated activities in	In the southern tip which is Class "M," some loss would occur in the mountain area but this would be limited by the rugged terrain. The concentration of activities in the remaining "L" area determine the degree that this type of recreation would be impaired. Mitigation would	See Final Plan Proposed Action

E Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

WILDERNESS QUALITY	FINAL PLAN	DRAFT PLAN				
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Opportunities for Primitive and Unconfined Types of Recreation (cont.)	opportunities. Restrictions, resulting from activities in the "L" area will tend to degrade the experience but only locally, in the vicinity of the operation.	restrictions which would degrade the sense of "unconfined" opportunities. Pockets where recreationists could enjoy primitive recreation would remain, but they would be isolated from each other. Generally, primitive and unconfined types of recreation would be lost.	restricted . The addition of the entire study area to designated wilderness in the adjoining National Monument would provide outstanding opportunities.	the class "L" area could result in a loss of opportunities. Mitigation would reduce the effect.	reduce some local impacts but, overall the quality of the experience would be degraded. Some isolated areas where opportunities for primitive types of recreation could be experienced will remain.	
Manageability	The recommended area shares a long common boundary with designated	Management of the entire wilderness study area under one set	As with the No Action alternative, management of the entire study	Management of the study area as wilderness and under Class "L" guideline	Mining activities permitted under Class "L" guidelines would eventually	See Final Plan -Proposed Action

E Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

WILDERNESS QUALITY	FINAL PLAN	DRAFT PLAN				
EVALUATION CRITERIA	PROPOSED ACTION	NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Manageability (cont.)	wilderness in Joshua Tree National Monument. Similar activities on both sides of the border will eliminate conflicts. Management details will be coordinated with J.T.N.M. personnel. The boundaries in the north and east are parallel to roads or utility lines and are readily identifiable. The short boundary in the	of guidelines (class "M") would be less complicated than management under 3 sets (wilderness classes "L" and "M") of guidelines. Management of the recommended area to maintain the wilderness qualities under Class "M" guidelines is not feasible and these values would be lost rapidly. Increase access	area under a single set of guidelines would be less complicated. All boundaries, with the exception of the southern tip are easily identifiable on the ground. The southern end would require frequent signing and detailed maps. Management to maintain the wilderness values would be enhanced. Com-	would be less complicated than the final plan recommendation. With the exception of the southern tip all wilderness boundaries would be easily recongnizable on the ground. Pave roads, dirt roads and canals would define most borders. The common border between the study area and JTNM would be easily manage-	degrade the wilderness values. Signing and detailed mapping of the JTNM border, to preclude inadvertent penetration would be necessary. Class "M" management of the southern end of the study area would be compatible with the surrounding management categories.	

WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN PROPOSED ACTION	DRAFT PLAN NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Manageability (cont.)	south was established along quent signing. contour lines and will require frequent signing. Extra attention will be required in the grandfather mining operation in the central portion.	associated with development will result increased pressures on the boundaries of the designated wilderness areas in JTNM.	patibile uses reduce the need for close management of the boundaries between JTNM and the Coxcomb wilderness area.	able. Management of the Class "L" area would be complicated by the fact that with few exceptions, boundaries are not easily recongnized on the ground.		

E Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN PROPOSED ACTION	DRAFT PLAN				
		NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Previous Recreational Uses	Recreational use of the area has been light. Vehicle use is generally limited to the alluvial plains surrounding the mountains. Camping and day use occurs in the northern portion. The Final Plan will adversely affect activities which use vehicles. The Class "L" area is rugged and provides many obstacles to vehicle use. The Class "M" area offers	If the number of claims is an indication of mineral exploration and or development significant negative impacts to primitive recreation could be expected. Although isolated areas would remain, most opportunities would be lost. Development would open up many areas to off road vehicle use which were previously inaccessible. Hunting and	Most primitive types of recreation would be positively impacted by this alternative. Photographers and painters would have to carry their equipment in on foot. Likewise, acquisition types of recreation, hunting and rockhounding would have to carry out whatever was obtained. Significant negative impacts would be experienced by	This alternative would favor primitive recreationists. Although similar to the Final Plan, the substitution of the "L" for the "M" area would result in more restrictive management. Day use, picnicking and camping would continue in the "L" area in the south. Photographers and painters could get closer by vehicles to the picturesque	Easier access to all portions of the area would be permitted. Development throughout would impact primitive recreation but would open many new areas to recreational vehicle use. The quality of the primitive experience would be degraded by development and vehicle use.	See Final Proposed Action

WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN PROPOSED ACTION	DRAFT PLAN NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Previous Recreational Uses (cont.)	little attraction. Primitive forms of recreation would be enhanced by designation. This would have the overall effect of expanding the wilderness experiences available in JTNM.	rockhounding would be positively impacted.	people previously utilizing the ways and washes for vehicle play.	interior of the mountian area.		
Historical and Cultural Resources Native American Values	The one known area of cultural sensitivity, falling within the designated area would be protected. Other areas, yet to be discovered,	Activities permitted under Class "M" guidelines would negatively affect both the known site and other areas which may exist but	All Historic and Cultural Resources would be positively impacted by the protection provided under this alternative. Future dis-	Impacts of this alternative would be very close to those anticipated by the adoption of the Final Plan. Although the Class "L" designation	Although a certain amount of protection would be lost, site specific mitigation in the class "L" area could reduce the negative impacts	

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WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN	DRAFT PLAN				
	PROPOSED ACTION	NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Historical and Cultural Resources Native American Values.(cont)	although protected would likely remain unknown for longer periods of time because of the use restrictions.	have not been identified. Site specific mitigation would reduce the degree of impact.	coveries or investigations would be slowed by restrictions and light use.	would normally provide more protection, the site of the replaced Class "M" area would not be expected to be a prime location for these resources.	within the Class "L" area. The impacts would be greater in the study area where potential for future discoveries are better/	
Uniqueness Within the CDCA	The combination of resource values which make this study area so unique will be maintained under this plan. Site specific mitigation will protect specific resources in the Class "L" areas.	Although pockets, containing combinations of resources would be maintained, the uniqueness of most of the area would eventually be degraded and lost. Mitigation could reduce or delay	Management of the entire area as wilderness would insure the stabilization of all existing resources. The uniqueness would be maintained indefinitely.	This alternative would offer slightly more protection than the Final Plan management guidelines for wilderness and Class "L" would provide the tools necessary to maintain the unique quality.	Current interest in mining indicates that under Class "L" guidelines extensive exploration would occur. Although some actions could be mitigated, the overall effect would degrade the uniquiness. This	See Final Plan Proposed Action

E Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN PROPOSED ACTION	DRAFT PLAN				PROPOSED PLAN
		NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	
Uniqueness Within the CDCA (cont)	The area designated for class "M" management adds little to the uniqueness of the area and activities would not significantly effect the area.	the impacts but they would generally be ineffective over a long period of time.		Some loss would be expected in Class "L" but mitigation would reduce the overall impact.	loss would be greater and occur more rapidly in the southern (Class "M") tip.	
Ecological Uniqueness and Diversity	Restriction resulting from wilderness designation will support the unique environment. The habitat which supports the bighorn sheep will be maintained. Within the class "L"	Mineral exploration and development throughout the entire WSA would result in a more rapid deterioration of the site. The declining bighorn sheep would be lost or displaced	Wilderness restrictions throughout the entire WSA would positively impact all resources within the borders. All components of the environment would be enhanced.	Impacts of this alternative would be very similar to those anticipated in the Final Plan. Although generally more restrictive, the area affected does not reflect the uni-	Generally, specific areas could be preserved and individual conflicts mitigated but activities permitted under these guidelines would eventually degrade the values.	See Final Plan -Proposed Action

E Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN	DRAFT PLAN				
	PROPOSED ACTION	NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Ecological Uniqueness and Diversity (cont.)	area conflicts will be mitigated to lessen the degree of impact. The Class "M" does not reflect the uniqueness of the site and permiitted activities would not impact this criteria.	displaced in the monument. The environment could not be maintained.		queness of the remaining site.		
Geological Uniqueness and Diversity	The geologic features within the recommended area would be maintained. Landform in the vicinity of mineral exploration and development would be impacted. This would be more severe in the Class "M"	Site specific activities would alter landforms locally. Mitigation could reduce the impact but over such a large area the total alteration could be significant. Generally the	Wilderness restrictions would eliminate conflicting use which could degrade this criteria.	The impacts of this alternative would be basically similar to those anticipated in the Final Plan, Proposed Action.	Mitigation of activities would reduce the overall effect of operations in the Class "L" area. Impacts would be expected to be more significant but would generally be localized.	See Final Plan - Proposed Action

E Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN PROPOSED ACTION	DRAFT PLAN				PROPOSED PLAN
		NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	
Geological Uniqueness and Diversity	area.	uniqueness and diversity will be maintained.				
Scenic Values	Scenic values within the site are outstanding. The area was rated "high" for landform, uniqueness, and influence of adjacent scenery. The area where the permitted activites might be significant enough to degrade the scenic quality coincides with one of the least attractive areas.	This alternative would result in a gradual loss of scenic quality. Mineral exploration and development along with the associated support structures and the roads would destroy the naturalness. Roads into the rugged interior would encourage recrational vehicle use which could result in the development	The Protection Alternative would restrict activities that might degrade the scenic quality of the entire study area.	Scenic values would be maintained under these guidelines. Some local impacts with the Class "L" area could be mitigated	Scenic values in areas of high mineralization would be negatively impacted. Exploration development and roads would detract from overall quality. Mitigation would reduce, but not eliminate, the effects. Within the Class "M" area, impacts would be grater.	See Final Plan -Proposed Action

WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN PROPOSED ACTION	DRAFT PLAN				PROPOSED PLAN
		NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	
Scenic Values (cont.)	Therefore, activities which may degrade the area locally will have little affect on the scenic qualities of the entire WSA.	of new trails and ways.				
Adjacent Existing/ Proposed Wilderness	Designation of the study area will provide a natural extension of the wilderness values found in the National Monument. Wilderness values on both sides of the border will be enhanced by the addition of this area.	Mineral exploration and development and related road building would open the area to vehicle use. Much of the area is rugged and would discourage vehicular use but, road construction would approach many parts of	The quality of the wilderness experience within Joshua Tree National Monument would be enhanced if the entire WSA was designated as wilderness.	The area being recommended for wilderness designation corresponds to the JTNM boundary. The impacts would be similar to those mentioned under the Final Plan. The areas managed under the Class "L" and "M" guidelines would have	The area joining the JTNM boundary would be managed under Class "L" guidelines. Mitigation could reduce some of the impacts that could result, but not all of them. Road development in the vicinity of the monument would result in increased	See Final Plan-Proposed Action

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WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN PROPOSED ACTION	DRAFT PLAN NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Adjacent Existing/ Proposed Wilderness (cont.)		the monument and result in greater pressures along the border. Increased management of the border area would be necessary if the entire area was managed under Class "M" guidelines.		little or no effect on the monument.	vehicle use and the need for more intense management.	
Proximity to Urban Centers	Designation of the Coxcomb Mountain as Wilderness would provide an expanded wilderness experience to vast numbers of potential users from the	Loss of this potential wilderness would negatively impact this criteria by increasing the driving times necessary to reach wilderness areas	See Final Plan-Proposed Action	See Final Plan-Proposed Action	Class "L" management would generally protect the integrity of the monument boundary. Loss of the area as wilderness would increase the driving time	See Final Plan-Proposed Action

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WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN	DRAFT PLAN				
	PROPOSED ACTION	NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Proximity to Urban Centers (cont.)	Los Angeles Metropolitan Area and surrounding communities. As population increases the pressures on existing wilderness will become intense.	with similar characteristics.			necessary to reach an area with similar characteristics.	
Physical Accessibility to All Segments of the Public	Perimeter roads in the north and east provide easy access to most of the interior areas. There are no access roads through JTNM. In the center portion dirt road/washes penetrate deep into	Roads needed to support continued exploration and development would open the entire study area to vehicle use. Physical accessibility would be positively impacted.	See Final Plan-Proposed Action	See Final Plan-Proposed Action	Access to support exploration and development and recreation would be provided. Although provided for specific uses most access to the interior would be available to all segments of the public.	See Final Plan-Proposed Action

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WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN PROPOSED ACTION	DRAFT PLAN				PROPOSED PLAN
		NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	
Physical Accessibility to All Segments of the Public (cont.)	the area.					
Mineral Exploration and Development	Their is a great deal of mineral interest in the area. There are 127 claims filed within the boundaries. The majority of the claims are located within the area being recommended for designation. This alternative will result in significant negative impacts to mineral exploration and	Management of the entire study area as MUC "L" will result in a significant positive impact to this criteria. Future exploration and development would be encouraged.	Wilderness restrictions would result in significant negative impacts to mineral development within the area.	The impacts of the Balanced Alternative would be very close to those outlined in the Final Plan-Proposed Action.	Mineral operations would be slightly negatively impacted within the large Class "L" area. Exploration and development would be permitted but, restrictions and mitigation to protect the resources would resulting impacts. Positive impacts would.be exected in the Class "M" area.	

WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN PROPOSED ACTION	DRAFT PLAN				
		NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Mineral Exploration and Development (cont.)	development. Claims within the Class "L" and "M" areas would be permitted under existing guidelines.					
Energy Exploration and Development	There is no known potential or interest in energy development in the Coxcomb Mountains. Future exploration would be restricted in the designated area, resulting in significant negative impacts. The degree of impacted within	Any interest in energy development that may arise in the future would be positively impacted by this alternative.	Significant negative impacts would result from wilderness designation of the entire WSA if an interest occurs.	This alternative would be slightly more restrictive than the Final Plan alternative.	Exploration and development could occur. Restrictions would be imposed and mitigation required to insure that other resource values would not be degraded.	See Final Plan-Proposed Action

E Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN PROPOSED ACTION	DRAFT PLAN				
		NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Motorized Recreation (cont.)	restrictions in the southern tip would permit vehicular recreation. Although restrictions would be less in the remaining area, it provides very little attraction to the activities.				necessary to protect the environment from excessive use.	
General Recreation	Wilderness restrictions will negatively impact any form of recreation (painting, photograph nature study) that requires vehicular support to	Primitive types of recreation would suffer because of conflicting activities and a corresponding reduction of natural values. Road development associ-	All primitive types of recreation would be positively impacted. Wilderness restrictions would severly impact all forms of recreation which	Impacts to General Recreation resulting from this alternative would be very close to those anticipated for the Final Plan. The area designated for	Depending upon the degree of mineral development, restrictions and mitigation could soften the impacts of these activities and lessen the degree of impact	See Final Plan-Proposed Action

WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN PROPOSED ACTION	DRAFT PLAN				
		NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
General Recreation (cont)	penetrated the site. Acquisition oriented activities such as hunting and rockhounding will be negatively impacted.	ated with mineral exploration would open the interior of mountain to vehicle recreation. Acquisition activities would be positively impaced.	require vehicle support. Camping and picnicking along the base of the mountains, a popular activity, would be restricted.	limited use would be a little more restrictive than the Final Plan.	on primitive types of recreation. Hunting and rockhounding would be positively impacted by this alternative.	
Grazing	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Wildlife	With the exception of the "M" area wildlife in the Coxcomb Mountains WSA will be positively impacted. The elimination of vehicles throughout	Over a period of wildlife habit would be lost to development. Roads and other developmental activities could separate game from the	This alternative would positively impact all wildlife and habitat within the borders of the study area. Maintenance of all water	Wildlife located within the limited use area will benefit slightly over the Final Plan. The more restrictive Class "L"	Wildlife would be negatively impacted in the Class "M" area. Mitigation could reduce the impacts in the remaining area but not eliminate them.	See Final Plan-Proposed Action

E Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN PROPOSED ACTION	DRAFT PLAN				
		NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Wildlife (cont.)	benefit the habitat. Protection for all bighorn sheep and deer will extend from JTNM into the study area.	limited water sources. Survival of the small herd of bighorn sheep would be questionable.	sources will be provided for in the management of the site.	designation would provide a slightly greater posi tive impact.	Development would eventually result in moderate negative impacts.	
Vegetation	Vegetation would generully be positively imimpacted in the designed and class "L" area. The positive impacts would be greater along the ways and in the alluvial	Limited use of the entire area under Class "M" guidelines would negatively impact vegetation throughout. Greatest impacts would occur on the fans. The rugged interior	Designation of the entire study area as wilderness would positively impact vegetation.	The Balanced alternative would provide a slightly greater degree of protection than the Final Plan.	Activities permitted under limited use guidelines would, over a period of time negatively impact vegetation within the area. Impacts would be more severe in the relatively flat areas surrounding the	See Final Plan Proposed Action

E Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

WILDERNESS QUALITY	FINAL PLAN	DRAFT PLAN				
EVALUATION CRITERIA	PROPOSED ACTION	NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Vegatation (cont.)	fans surrounding the mountains site specific impacts in the limited use areas could be mitigated.	areas would depending on the degree of development, be impacted to a lesser degree.			mountains. Mitigation could reduce the impacts in some cases.	
Energy and Utilities	Utilities corridor "E" passes through the WSA at the southern tip. This 3 mile wide corridor supports 2,230 KV power lines and 1 telephone line. Since this falls outside of the area being	All energy and utility requirements could be supported under this alternative.	A significant negative impact would result from wilderness restrictions.	See Final Plan-Proposed Action	All energy and utility requirements could be supported under this alternative.	See Final Plan-Proposed Action

Form 1279–3
(June 1984)

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Coxcomb Mountain wilde

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E Wilderness Study Area Summary, Final Plan and Alternatives Considered

WILDERNESS QUALITY EVALUATION CRITERIA	FINAL PLAN	DRAFT PLAN				
	PROPOSED ACTION	NO ACTION	PROTECTION	BALANCED	USE	PROPOSED PLAN
Energy and Utilities (cont)	recommended as suitable for wilderness the criteria would be positively impacted.					

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